

U.S. Army Financial Management School and University of South Carolina Darla Moore School  
of Business Partnership

By CPT JESSICA BOWERS

Financial Management School

To some it may be a long overdue ceremony, but it is simple a confirmation of the outstanding partnership between the U.S. Army Financial Management School and the University of South Carolina. This partnership has, for more than two-years, provided educational and training opportunities to Soldiers and Civilians throughout the Army Financial Management (FM) community. The Army Financial Management School (FMS) at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, initially begin their partnership with the University of South Carolina (USC) Darla Moore's School of Business in Columbia, South Carolina in 2014. The Darla Moore's School of Business at USC has ranked in the top three graduate schools for their International MBA program for the past 25 years. USC Since the summer of 2014, USC has been educating Soldiers and Civilian from the Army finance community to enhance their understanding and use of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) tool, General Fund Enterprise Business System (GFEBS). With the deployment of GFEBS the Army's financial management community realized the need for additional skills, training and education to leverage the full capabilities of GFEBS, the Army's accounting system of record. USC's partnership with the FM community help fill the gap.

In Fiscal Year 2009, the Department of the Army implemented what is now one of the largest ERP systems in the world, the GFEBS. GFEBS replaced more than 80 systems, thus leading to new ways of procuring, processing, and paying for resources to support current and growing missions around the world. A few years after the implementation of GFEBS, Congress announced that the Department of Defense must be auditable by Fiscal Year 2017.

There are currently four courses being offered at USC to support the Army's need to achieve audit readiness and perform data analytics to improve fiscal decision made by commanders and leaders alike: Business Analytics Course, Advanced Business Analytics Course, Cost Management Certificate Course, and the Enterprise Resource Planning with SAP TERP10 Certification. These courses range from one week to four weeks in length. The curriculum includes: introduction to ERP systems; manipulating and analyzing data using Microsoft Excel; decision modeling in Excel; and cost concepts and analysis techniques that includes cost benefit, break-even, and variance analysis. If you are interested in attending any of these courses, please reference the Financial Management School Course Catalog which can be located at <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/community/spaces/afms>.

The significance of this event is evidenced by the attendance of the most senior Financial Management (FM) leaders in the Army, who took time during the Army Financial Management Regimental Week to attend as well as USC staff and faculty – pictured seated (left to right): Mr. Robert Szymanski, Dr. Sherry Thatcher, Dr. Drew Newman, Dr. Janice Fergusson, Dr. Mark

Cecchini, LTG Dyson, Mr. Bill Dukes (Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army), BG Coburn, BG Chamberlain, BG Wojtecki, COL(P) Dreyer; standing (left to right): SGM Ross, CSM Walker, Dr. Manoj Maholtra, LTC Barfield-Hughes, Dr. Brad Tuttle, Mr. Michael Williams (President Army Logistics University), Dr. Tim Carroll, COL Zellars, Mr. John Hall (CASCOM Deputy to the General), COL Nieberding, SGM Peachers, CSM Reynolds, and CSM Wesson.

**Photo Information**

Photos by CPT JESSICA BOWERS

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PHOTO 1: Senior Army Financial Management leaders and USC staff and faculty in attendance of the partnership signing.

